

Appendix D - Eligibility Procedures Relating to Threatened and Endangered Species Protection

In accordance with Part 1.1.5 of the CGP, you must follow the procedures in this appendix to determine your eligibility under one of the criteria in Part D.1 of this appendix with respect to the protection of federally listed threatened or endangered species and federally designated "critical habitat" [hereinafter "threatened and endangered species"] under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) from discharges and discharge-related activities authorized under this permit. If you do not meet one of these criteria, you are not eligible for coverage under this permit.

While coordination between you and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (together, the "Services") is not necessarily required in all cases, EPA encourages you to coordinate with the Services, to document that coordination, and to do so early in the planning process prior to submitting your NOI.

This appendix is organized as follows:

- **Part D.1:** Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Eligibility Criteria
- **Part D.2:** Procedures for Determining Which Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Criteria Applies

D.1 Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Eligibility Criteria

You must certify in your NOI that you meet one of the eligibility criteria listed below in order to be eligible for coverage under this permit. Once you determine the applicable eligibility criterion, you must:

- Specify the basis for your selection of the applicable eligibility criterion, and if required, provide documentation that is the basis for your determination with the NOI form; and
- Provide documentation in your SWPPP that is sufficient to support your determination that you satisfy the requirements of the applicable criterion.

The definition of "action area," which is contained in Appendix A, is repeated below for convenience.

"Action Area" – all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. For the purposes of this permit and for application of the Endangered Species Act requirements, the following areas are included in the definition of action area:

- The areas on the construction site where stormwater discharges originate and flow toward the point of discharge into the receiving waters (including areas where excavation, site development, or other ground disturbance activities occur) and the immediate vicinity. (Example: Where bald eagles nest in a tree that is on or bordering a construction site and could be disturbed by the construction activity or where grading causes stormwater to flow into a small wetland or other habitat that is on the site that contains listed species.)
- The areas where stormwater discharges flow from the construction site to the point of discharge into receiving waters. (Example: Where stormwater flows into a ditch, swale, or gully that leads to receiving waters and where listed species (such as listed amphibians) are found in the ditch, swale, or gully.)
- The areas where stormwater from construction activities discharge into receiving waters and the areas in the immediate vicinity of the point of discharge. (Example: Where stormwater from construction activities discharges into a stream segment that is known to harbor listed aquatic species.)
- The areas where stormwater controls will be constructed and operated, including any areas where stormwater flows to and from the stormwater controls. (Example: Where a stormwater retention pond would be built.)
- The areas upstream and/or downstream from the stormwater discharge into a stream segment that may be affected by these discharges. (Example: Where sediment discharged to a receiving stream settles downstream and impacts a breeding area of a listed aquatic species.)

Criterion A. No ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in action area. Using the process outlined in Appendix D of this permit, you certify that ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat(s) under the jurisdiction of the USFWS or NMFS are not likely to occur in your site's "action area" as defined in Appendix A of this permit.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify the USFWS and NMFS information sources used. Attaching aerial image(s) of the site to this NOI is helpful to EPA, USFWS, and NMFS in confirming eligibility under this criterion. Please Note: NMFS' jurisdiction includes ESA-listed marine and estuarine species that spawn in inland rivers.

Criterion B. Eligibility requirements met by another operator under the 2017 CGP. The construction site's discharges and discharge-related activities were already addressed in another operator's valid certification of eligibility for your "action area" under eligibility Criterion A, C, D, E, or F of the 2017 CGP and you have confirmed that no additional ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of USFWS and/or NMFS not considered in the that certification may be present or located in the "action area." To certify your eligibility under this criterion, there must be no lapse of NPDES permit coverage in the other CGP operator's certification. By certifying eligibility under this criterion, you agree to comply with any conditions upon which the other CGP operator's certification was based. You must include in your NOI the NPDES ID from the other 2017CGP operator's notification of authorization under this permit. If your certification is based on another 2017 CGP operator's certification under criterion C, you must provide EPA with the relevant supporting information required of existing dischargers in criterion C in your NOI form.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify the eligibility criterion of the other CGP NOI, the authorization date, and confirmation that the authorization is effective.

Criterion C. Discharges not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat. ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat(s) under the jurisdiction of the USFWS and/or NMFS are likely to occur in or near your site's "action area," and you certify to EPA that your site's discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed threatened or endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. This certification may include consideration of any stormwater controls and/or management practices you will adopt to ensure that your discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat. To certify your eligibility under this criterion, indicate 1) the ESA-listed species and/or designated habitat located in your "action area" using the process outlined in Appendix D of this permit; 2) the distance between the site and the listed species and/or designated critical habitat in the action area (in miles); and 3) a rationale describing specifically how adverse effects to ESA-listed species will be avoided from the discharges and discharge-related activities. You must also include a copy of your site map from your SWPPP showing the upland and in-water extent of your "action area" with this NOI.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify the information resources and expertise (e.g., state or federal biologists) used to arrive at this conclusion. Any supporting documentation should explicitly state that both ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the USFWS and/or NMFS were considered in the evaluation.

Criterion D. Coordination with USFWS and/or NMFS has successfully concluded. Coordination between you and the USFWS and/or NMFS has concluded. The coordination must have addressed the effects of your site's discharges and discharge-related activities on ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of USFWS and/or NMFS, and resulted in a written concurrence from USFWS and/or NMFS that your site's discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect listed species and/or critical habitat. You must include copies of the correspondence with the participating agencies in your SWPPP and this NOI.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify whether USFWS or NMFS or both agencies participated in coordination, the field office/regional office(s) providing that coordination, and the date that coordination concluded.

Criterion E. ESA Section 7 consultation has successfully concluded. Consultation between a Federal Agency and the USFWS and/or NMFS under section 7 of the ESA has concluded. The consultation must have addressed the effects of the construction site's discharges and discharge-related activities on ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat under the jurisdiction of USFWS and/or NMFS. To certify eligibility under this criterion, Indicate the result of the consultation:

- I. biological opinion from USFWS and/or NMFS that concludes that the action in question (taking into account the effects of your site's discharges and discharge-related activities) is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, nor the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat; or
- II. written concurrence from USFWS and/or NMFS with a finding that the site's discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

You must include copies of the correspondence between yourself and the USFWS and/or NMFS in your SWPPP and this NOI.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify the federal action agency(ies) involved, the field office/regional office(s) providing that consultation, any tracking numbers of identifiers associated with that consultation (e.g., IPaC number, PCTS number), and the date the consultation was completed.

Criterion F. Issuance of section 10 permit. Potential take is authorized through the issuance of a permit under section 10 of the ESA by the USFWS and/or NMFS, and this authorization addresses the effects of the site's discharges and discharge-related activities on ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat. You must include copies of the correspondence between yourself and the participating agencies in your SWPPP and your NOI.

Basis statement content: A basis statement supporting the selection of this criterion should identify whether USFWS or NMFS or both agencies provided a section 10 permit, the field office/regional office(s) providing permit(s), any tracking numbers of identifiers associated with that consultation (e.g., IPaC number, PCTS number), and the date the permit was granted.

You must comply with any applicable terms, conditions, or other requirements developed in the process of meeting the eligibility criteria in this section to remain eligible for coverage under this permit. Documentation of these requirements must be kept as part of your SWPPP (see Part 7.2.9.a).

NMFS will, within 14 days of submission of the NOI, advise EPA whether it believes the planned discharges meet the eligibility criteria of not likely to adversely affect NMFS Listed Resources of Concern, whether the eligibility criterion could be met with additional conditions; or whether the eligibility criterion is not met. With respects to ESA issues, EPA recognizes NMFS expertise and will carefully consider NMFS' determination in identifying eligibility for authorization, either with or without additional conditions. In the event NMFS has placed a hold on your NOI, EPA will notify you as to whether your discharges are authorized or whether an individual permit will be

required. If you do not hear from EPA within 14 days, you may assume that your discharge is authorized without further conditions.

D.2 Procedures for Determining Which Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Criterion Applies

You must follow the procedures in this Part to determine the criterion listed above under which your site is eligible for permit coverage.

D.2.1 Step 1 - Determine if Your Discharges and Discharge-Related Activities Were Already Addressed in Another Operator's Valid Certification that Included Your Action Area.

- **If your discharges and discharge-related activities were already addressed in another operator's valid certification that included your action area** (e.g., a general contractor or developer may have completed and filed an NOI for the entire action area with the necessary ESA certifications (Criterion A, C, D, E, or F)), *you may select eligibility Criterion B on your NOI form.*

By certifying eligibility under Criterion B, you must comply with any terms and conditions imposed under the eligibility requirements of the criterion for which the other operator has established eligibility (either Criterion A, C, D, E, or F) to ensure that your discharges and discharge-related activities are protective of listed species and/or critical habitat.

Note: If you are unable to meet these eligibility requirements, then you may either establish eligibility under one of the other criterion, or you may consider applying to EPA for an individual permit.

Under Criterion B, you must provide documentation in your SWPPP of any of these terms and conditions, as well as the other operator's basis for establishing eligibility. You must also provide a description of the basis for your selection of Criterion B on your NOI form, including the eligibility criterion (A, C, D, E, or F) that was certified to by the other operator, and must provide the NPDES ID from the other operator's notification of authorization under this permit.

If your certification is based on another operator's certification under criterion C, you must provide the documentation required in the NOI for criterion C, namely: 1) what federally listed species and/or designated habitat are located in your "action area"; and 2) the distance between your site and the listed species or designated critical habitat (in miles).

- **If discharges and discharge-related activities from your site were not addressed in another operator's valid certification that included your action area**, you must follow the applicable procedures in Steps 2 through 5 below.

D.2.2 Step 2 - Determine if Listed Threatened or Endangered Species or their Designated Critical Habitat(s) are Likely to Occur in your Site's Action Area

You must determine, to the best of your knowledge, whether species listed as either threatened or endangered, or their critical habitat(s) (see definitions of these terms in Appendix A), are located in your site's action area. To make this determination, you should first determine if listed species and/or critical habitat are expected to exist in your county or township. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service maintain lists of federally listed endangered or threatened species on their internet sites.

- For National Marine Fisheries Service species and critical habitat information, use the following webpages, which provide up-to-date information on listed species (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/>) and critical habitat

(<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/criticalhabitat.htm>). To determine the field office that corresponds to your site, go to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/> (under the left tab for "Regions").

For National Marine Fisheries Service species in the Greater Atlantic Region, go to <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/section7/guidance/maps/index.html>.

- For Fish and Wildlife Service species information, use the on-line mapping tool IPaC (the Information, Planning, and Consultation System) located at <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>, and follow these steps:
 - Select Get Started
 - Select Enter Project Location
 - Use an address, city name or other location to zoom into your project area
 - Use the zoom feature to see the entire extent of your action area on the screen
 - Use one of the mapping features (e.g., Polygon or line feature) to draw your action
- When you are done, press *Continue*.
- Select Request an Official Species List
- Complete the fields on the Official Species List Request page, and include "(CGP)" at the end of the project description. – For Classification, select "Water Quality Modification".
- Select the appropriate requesting agency/organization type (for most dischargers, this should be "Other").
- Submit the request to acquire an Official Species List, which should show both listed species as well as any designated critical habitat that are present in the action area in the previous step.
- *Note: If a link to an Official Species List is not available on the page, follow the web link of the office(s) indicated, or contact the office directly by mail or phone if a web link is not shown.*
- **If listed species and/or critical habitat may exist in your action area, you must do one or more of the following:**
 - Conduct visual inspections. This method may be particularly suitable for construction sites that are smaller in size or located in non-natural settings such as highly urbanized areas or industrial parks where there is little or no natural habitat, or for construction activities that discharge directly into municipal stormwater collection systems.
 - Conduct a formal biological survey. In some cases, particularly for larger construction sites with extensive stormwater discharges, biological surveys may be an appropriate way to assess whether species are located in the action area and whether there are likely to be adverse effects to such species. Biological surveys are frequently performed by environmental consulting firms.
 - If required, conduct an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Some construction activities might require review under NEPA for specific reasons, such as federal funding or other federal involvement in the project. Note: Coverage under the CGP does not

trigger such a review for individual projects/sites. EPA has complied with NEPA in the issuance of the CGP.

and

- Follow the instructions in Steps 3 – 5 below, as applicable. Note that many but not all measures imposed to protect listed species under these steps will also protect critical habitat. Thus, meeting the eligibility requirements of this CGP may require measures to protect critical habitat that are separate from those to protect listed species.
- **If there are no listed species and no critical habitat areas in your action area, you may check eligibility criterion A on your NOI form.** You must also provide a description of the basis for the criterion selected on your NOI form and provide documentation supporting the criterion selected in your SWPPP.

D.2.3 Step 3 - Determine if the Construction Activity's Discharges or Discharge-Related Activities Are Likely to Adversely Affect Listed Threatened or Endangered Species or Designated Critical Habitat

If in Step 2 you determine that listed species and/or critical habitat could exist in your action area, you must next assess whether your discharges or discharge-related activities are likely to adversely affect listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

Potential adverse effects from discharges and discharge-related activities include:

- *Hydrological.* Stormwater discharges may cause siltation, sedimentation, or induce other changes in receiving waters such as temperature, salinity, or pH. These effects will vary with the amount of stormwater discharged and the volume and condition of the receiving water. Where a stormwater discharge constitutes a minute portion of the total volume of the receiving water, adverse hydrological effects are less likely. Construction activity itself may also alter drainage patterns on a site where construction occurs that can impact listed species or critical habitat.
- *Habitat.* Excavation, site development, grading, and other surface disturbance activities from construction activities, including the installation or placement of stormwater controls, may adversely affect listed species or their habitat. Stormwater may drain or inundate listed species habitat.
- *Toxicity.* In some cases, pollutants in stormwater may have toxic effects on listed species.

The scope of effects to consider will vary with each site. If you are having difficulty determining whether your project is likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat, or one of the Services has already raised concerns to you, you should contact the appropriate Services office for assistance.

- **If adverse effects to listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat are not likely, then you may select eligibility criterion C on the NOI form.** You must provide the following specific information on your NOI form: 1) the federally listed species and/or designated habitat are located in your "action area"; and 2) the distance between your site and the listed species or designated critical habitat (in miles). You must also provide a copy of your site map with your NOI.
- **If adverse effects to listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat are likely, you must follow Step 4 below.**

D.2.4 Step 4 - Determine if Measures Can Be Implemented to Avoid Adverse Effects

If you make a preliminary determination in Step 3 that adverse effects from your construction activity's discharges or discharge-related activities are likely to occur, you can still receive coverage under eligibility criterion C of the CGP if appropriate measures are undertaken to avoid or eliminate the likelihood of adverse effects prior to applying for CGP coverage.

These measures may involve relatively simple changes to construction activities such as re-routing a stormwater discharge to bypass an area where species are located, relocating stormwater controls, or by modifying the "footprint" of the construction activity. If you are unable to ascertain which measures to implement to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects, you must coordinate or enter into consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service, in which case you would not be eligible for coverage under eligibility criterion C, but may instead be eligible for coverage under eligibility criterion D, E, or F (described in more detail in Step 5).

- **If you are able to install and implement appropriate measures to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects, then you may check eligibility criterion C on the NOI form.** The measures you adopt to avoid or eliminate adverse effects must be implemented for the duration of the construction project and your coverage under the CGP. You must also provide a description of the basis for the criterion selected, and the following specific information on your NOI form: 1) the federally listed species and/or designated habitat are located in your "action area"; and 2) the distance between your site and the listed species or designated critical habitat (in miles).
- **If you cannot ascertain which measures to implement to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects, you must follow the procedures in Step 5.**

D.2.5 Step 5 - Determine if the Eligibility Requirements of Criterion D, E, or F Can Be Met

If in Step 4 you cannot ascertain which measures to implement to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects, you must contact the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service. You may still be eligible for CGP coverage if likely adverse effects can be addressed through meeting criterion D, E, or F.

- **Criterion D:** Coordination between you and the Services has concluded. The coordination must have addressed the effects of your site's discharges and discharge-related activities on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat, and resulted in a written concurrence from the relevant Service(s) that your site's discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat.

If you have met the requirements of criterion D, *you may select eligibility criterion D on the NOI form.* You must provide a description of the basis for the criterion selected on your NOI form and must include copies of the correspondence between you and the applicable Service in your SWPPP.

- **Criterion E:** Consultation between a Federal Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service under section 7 of the ESA has concluded. The consultation must have addressed the effects of the construction site's discharges and discharge-related activities on federally-listed threatened or endangered species and federally-designated critical habitat. The result of this consultation must be either (1) a biological opinion that concludes that the action in question (taking into account the effects of your site's discharges and discharge-related activities) is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, nor the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat; or (2) written concurrence from the applicable Service(s) with a

finding that the site's discharges and discharge-related activities are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species or federally-designated habitat.

For more information on section 7 consultation, see 50 CFR §402. If you receive a "jeopardy opinion," you may continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service and your permitting authority to modify your project so that it will not jeopardize listed species or designated critical habitat.

Note that most consultations are accomplished through informal consultation. When conducting informal ESA section 7 consultation as a non-federal representative, you must follow the procedures found in 50 CFR Part 402 of the ESA regulations. You must notify the Services of your intention and agreement to conduct consultation as a non-federal representative.

Consultation may also occur in the context of another federal action at the construction site (e.g., where ESA section 7 consultation was performed for issuance of a wetlands dredge and fill permit for the project or where a NEPA review is performed for the project that incorporates a section 7 consultation).

Any terms and conditions developed through consultations to protect listed species and critical habitat must be incorporated into the SWPPP. As noted above, operators may, if they wish, initiate consultation with the Services at Step Four.

Whether ESA section 7 consultation must be performed with either the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, or both Services depends on the listed species that may be affected by the operator's activity. In general, the National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction over marine, estuarine, and anadromous species. Operators should also be aware that while formal section 7 consultation provides protection from incidental takings liability, informal consultation does not.

If you have met the requirements of criterion E, *you may select eligibility criterion E on the NOI form*. You must provide a description of the basis for the criterion selected on your NOI form and must include copies of the correspondence between yourself and the Services in your SWPPP.

- **Criterion F:** Your construction activities are authorized through the issuance of a permit under section 10 of the ESA, and this authorization addresses the effects of the site's discharges and discharge-related activities on federally-listed species and federally-designated critical habitat.

You must follow Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service procedures when applying for an ESA section 10 permit (see 50 CFR §17.22(b)(1) for Fish and Wildlife Service and §222.22 for National Marine Fisheries Service). Application instructions for section 10 permits can be obtained from <http://www.fws.gov> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov> or by contacting the appropriate Service office.

If you have met the requirements of criterion F, *you may select eligibility criterion F on the NOI form*. You must provide a description of the basis for the criterion selected on your NOI form and must include copies of the correspondence between yourself and the Services in your SWPPP.